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What is claimed is:

1.   A method, comprising:

selecting one or more segments of each of a plurality of streams of expected payments that are to satisfy a plurality of obligations to provide payments to a holder of one or more rights to receive such payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets, said segments corresponding to a first time period having a first duration that is less than a second duration of a second time period over which at least one of the streams of expected payments is expected to extend, wherein said one or more segments are selected such that a first total amount of expected payments associated with said one or more segments satisfies one or more criteria; and

identifying one or more portions of said one or more rights for transfer to an entity, said one or more portions corresponding to the one or more segments that correspond to the first time period, said one or more portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said one or more rights.

2.   The method defined in claim 1, wherein a plurality of segments of the plurality of streams of expected payments are selected from a plurality of time periods including said first time period, wherein each of said plurality of time periods corresponds to at least one of said plurality of segments, and wherein a plurality of portions of said one or more rights are identified for transfer to an entity, said plurality of portions corresponding to the plurality of segments, said plurality of portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said one or more rights.

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3.   The method defined in claim 1, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments exceed a predetermined amount in said first time period.

4.   The method defined in claim 3, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments be closest to said predetermined amount relative to a second total amount of expected payments.

5.   The method defined in claim 1, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments fall within a predetermined range of expected payments to be received in said first time period.

6.   The method defined in claim 1, further comprising the act of transferring said one or more portions of one or more of said rights to an entity.

7.   The method defined in claim 1, wherein said entity is a special purpose vehicle.

8.   The method defined in claim 7, wherein said special purpose vehicle is one that facilitates an issuance of securities backed by said one or more portions of one or more of said plurality of rights.

9.   The method defined in claim 1, wherein said payments are royalty payments.

10.   The method defined in claim 1, wherein said rights are contractual rights.

11.   A computer readable medium carrying one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors coupled to a memory, cause the one or more processors to carry out the following acts:

selecting one or more segments of each of a plurality of streams of expected payments that are to satisfy a plurality of obligations to provide payments to a holder of one or more rights to receive such payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets, said segments corresponding to a first time period having a first duration that is less than a second duration of a second time period over which at least one of the streams of expected payments is expected to extend, wherein said one or more segments are selected such that a first total amount of expected payments associated with said one or more segments satisfies one or more criteria; and

identifying one or more portions of said one or more rights for transfer to an entity, said one or more portions corresponding to the one or more segments that correspond to the first time period, said one or more portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said one or more rights.

12. The computer readable medium defined in claim 11 wherein a plurality of segments of the plurality of streams of expected payments are selected from a plurality of time periods including said first time period, wherein each of said plurality of time periods corresponds to at least one of said plurality of segments, and wherein a plurality of portions of said one or more rights are identified for transfer to an entity, said plurality of portions corresponding to the plurality of segments, said plurality of portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said one or more rights.

13. The computer readable medium defined in claim 11, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments exceed a predetermined amount in said first time period.

14. The computer readable medium defined in claim 13, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments be closest to said predetermined amount relative to a second total amount of expected payments.

15. The computer readable medium defined in claim 11, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments fall within a predetermined range of expected payments to be received in said first time period.

16. The computer readable medium defined in claim 11, wherein said payments are royalty payments.

17. The computer readable medium defined in claim 11, wherein said rights are contractual rights.

18. An apparatus comprising one or more processors coupled to a memory storing instructions that are executed by said one or more processors such that said one or more processors select one or more segments of each of a plurality of streams of expected payments that are to satisfy a plurality of obligations to provide payments to a holder of one or more rights to receive such payments in exchange for transfers of interests in one or more intellectual property assets, said segments corresponding to a first time period having a first duration that is less than a second duration of a second time period over which at least one of the streams of expected payments is expected to extend, wherein said one or more segments are selected such that a first total amount

of expected payments associated with said one or more segments satisfies one or more criteria; and

identify one or more portions of said one or more rights for transfer to an entity, said one or more portions corresponding to the one or more segments that correspond to the first time period, said one or more portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said one or more rights.

19. The apparatus defined in claim 18, wherein a plurality of segments of the plurality of streams of expected payments are selected from a plurality of time periods including said first time period, wherein each of said plurality of time periods corresponds to at least one of said plurality of segments, and wherein a plurality of portions of said one or more rights are identified for transfer to an entity, said plurality of portions corresponding to the plurality of segments, said plurality of portions being identified for transfer apart from at least one remaining portion of at least one of said one or more rights.

20. The apparatus defined in claim 18, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments exceed a predetermined amount in said first time period.

21. The apparatus defined in claim 20, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments be closest to said predetermined amount relative to a second total amount of expected payments.

22. The apparatus defined in claim 18, wherein satisfaction of said one or more criteria requires that the first total amount of expected payments fall within a predetermined range of expected payments to be received in said first time period.

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23.   The apparatus defined in claim 16, wherein said payments are royalty payments.

24.   The apparatus defined in claim 18, wherein said rights are contractual rights.

25. A method, comprising:

for an identified time period, selecting a segment from each of a plurality of expected streams of payments, each expected stream of payments to satisfy at least one obligation to provide payments to a holder of at least one right to receive such payments in exchange for a transfer of at least one interest in at least one an intellectual property asset, each of said segments corresponding to the selected time period, said plurality of segments selected such that a total amount of payments associated with said plurality of segments satisfies one or more predetermined criteria; and

offering to transfer to an entity, an identified portion of said at least one right, said identified portion corresponding to the identified time period, said identified portion distinct from a remaining portion of said at least one obligation.

26. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the time period.

27. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining the one or more criteria.

28. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
identifying the portion of said at least one right.

29. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

entering an agreement to transfer the identified portion of said at least one right.

30. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transferring the identified portion of said at least one right.